

3. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source includes a diode laser.

4. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source produces a plurality of light beams spatially separated from one another for simultaneous imaging of a plurality of printing spots.

5. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the laser light source includes an individually controllable diode laser array.

6. (Amended) A method for imaging printing surfaces using laser light comprising the steps of:  
providing a laser light source for generating a laser beam having a position-dependent intensity distribution in two spatial directions perpendicular to a propagation axis, and a specific divergence;  
providing a printing surface at a distance from the laser light source;  
measuring the distance of the laser light source from the printing surface;  
exposing the printing surface located at a certain distance from the laser light source; and  
varying a laser power or exposure time so as to vary a spot size of image spots on the printing surface.

10. (Amended) A printing unit comprising:  
a printing surface; and  
a device for spotwise imaging the printing surface, the device having a laser light source producing at least one laser beam movable relative to a printing surface, the laser beam defining an image spot on the printing surface, the laser beam having a laser power, the device also including a laser control varying the laser power or an exposure time as a function of a distance of the laser light source from the image spot and a distance meter for determining the distance of the laser light source from the image spot.